



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Scott Valla

**FORMER "TOYS R US" EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO 90 MONTHS AFTER GUILTY PLEA
TO RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

A 35-year-old Marine City man, who possessed over 450 images and over 90 movies of child pornography was sentenced today in federal court to 90 months in prison, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Detroit.

Scott Valla, a former employee of a Toys R Us, pleaded guilty to one felony count of receipt of child pornography and one felony count of possession of child pornography before United States District Judge Marianne O. Battani. Valla admitted that he used America Online to receive and download over 450 child pornographic images and that he possessed VHS videotapes of child pornography. Valla retained all of the images and movies at his sports card shop, The Dugout, located in Marine City. Many of the children depicted in the images and movies are under 12 years-of-age.

United States Attorney Murphy stated, "Children do not deserve to have their innocence

ripped away, and their dignity stolen, by the sexual exploitation of child pornographers. Those who possess unlawful images of child pornography fuel the international online marketplace the sexual abuse of children. Today's 90-month sentence should be a strong deterrent to stop such abhorrent conduct."

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sarah Resnick Cohen.